

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for external control over operation of an electronic device having a wireless receiver, comprising:

broadcasting a wireless control message within a broadcast range established by a controlling system, wherein the control message includes an instruction to limit 10 operation of one or more components within the electronic device;

receiving the instruction in the wireless receiver while the device is located within the broadcast range; and

responsive to the instruction, setting one or more electronic gates in the device that control operation of the one or more components.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

resetting the one or more electronic gates to a default condition if the wireless receiver does not receive the instruction to limit operation within a preset time period.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction limits operation of two or more of the components within the electronic device.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

automatically resetting the one or more electronic gates to a default condition 25 if the wireless receiver has not received a wireless control message in a preset period of time.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is selected from a telephone, camera, audio recorder, video recorder, and a computer.

6. A method for external control over operation of an electronic device having a wireless receiver, comprising:

5 broadcasting a wireless control message within a broadcast range established by a controlling system, wherein the control message includes an instruction to limit operation of one or more components within the electronic device;

receiving the instruction in the wireless receiver when the device is located within the broadcast range;

10 communicating the instruction from the wireless receiver to one or more device drivers that operate the one or more components; and

refusing commands delivered to the one or more device drivers that violate the instruction.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

15 restoring full operation of the one or more components if the wireless receiver does not receive a further instruction to limit operation within a preset time period.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein one of the components is a power supply.

20 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the instruction sets a power level for one or more components.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the command originates from an application program to request use of one of the components.

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11. The method of claim 6, wherein the instruction limits operation of two or more of the components.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein the instruction provides messages to two or more device drivers, and wherein the messages are selected from enable a driver, disable a driver, or combinations thereof.

5 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
automatically enabling each of the device drivers when the wireless receiver has device drivers that have not received a wireless control message in a preset period of time.

10 14. The method of claim 6, wherein the electronic device is selected from a phone, camera, audio recorder, video recorder, and a computer.

15. A computer program product including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:

15 broadcasting instructions for broadcasting a wireless control message within a broadcast range established by a controlling system, wherein the control message includes a limiting instruction to limit operation of one or more components within the electronic device;

20 receiving instructions for receiving the limiting instruction in the wireless receiver while the device is located within the broadcast range; and

setting instructions, responsive to the limiting instructions, for setting one or more electronic gates in the electronic device that control operation of the one or more device components.

25 16. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:
resetting instructions for resetting the one or more electronic gates to a default condition if the wireless receiver has not receive the instruction to limit operation within a preset time period.

17. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the instruction limits operation of two or more of the components within the electronic device.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising:
5 resetting instructions for automatically resetting the one or more electronic gates to a default condition if the wireless receiver has not received a wireless control message in a preset period of time.

19. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the electronic device is
10 selected from a telephone, camera, audio recorder, video recorder, and a computer.

20. A computer program product including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:

15 receiving instructions for receiving a wireless control message including operating limits for one or more components within the electronic device;

communicating instructions for communicating the operating limits from the wireless receiver to one or more device drivers that operate the one or more components; and

20 refusing commands delivered to the one or more device drivers that violate the operating limits.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising:
restoring instructions for restoring full operation of the one or more components if the wireless receiver does not receive the operating limits within a
25 preset time period.

22. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein one of the components is a power supply.

23. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operating limits set a power level for one or more components.
24. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the command originates from an application program to request use of one of the components.
25. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the control message includes operating limits for one or more of the components.
- 10 26. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operating limits includes operating limits for one or more of the components, and wherein the operating limits are selected from enable a driver, disable a driver, or combinations thereof.
- 15 27. The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising:
enabling instructions for automatically enabling each of the device drivers when the wireless receiver has not received a wireless control message in a preset period of time.
- 20 28. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the electronic device is selected from a phone, camera, audio recorder, video recorder, and a computer.